



300 GRADD Way  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
42301-0200

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## GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

August 7, 2024

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 12:30 p.m., at GRADD with the following in attendance:

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Dunbar  
Kim Humphrey  
Isaac Murphy  
Kenneth Calloway  
Mike Baker  
Greg Risch  
David Benson, Proxy for Jason Cole  
Sheri Plain, Proxy for Cindy Fiorella

Eddie Embry  
Luke Aull  
Jonathan Pendergrass  
Chris Geary  
Keith Wells  
Bart Darrell

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Jason Curry  
\*Cameron Knott  
\*Jason Warren

Marybeth Henshaw  
\*Amanda Blohm-Thompson  
Amanda Curry

\*Excused absence

### GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Natalie Payne, Human Resource Manager, Century Aluminum  
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions  
Paula Snyder, Career Development Office  
Michelle Drake, Director, Workforce Development, GRADD  
Jill Gray, Assistant Director, Workforce Development, GRADD  
Paula Payne, Coordinator, Workforce Development, GRADD  
Stacia Cole, Vocational Rehabilitation

Steve Henry, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary | Curtis Dame, Treasurer | Joanna Shake, Executive Director



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Julia Brown, Audubon Area Community Services  
Brad Davis, GOEDC  
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Heather Yeiser, Audubon Area Community Services  
Brad Davis, GOEDC  
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mickey Dunbar called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. It was determined that a quorum was not present, and no items would be voted on. Keith Wells and Greg Risch were recognized as new members of the Board.

II. BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Century Aluminum was recognized as the lunch sponsor. Kenneth Calloway, Vice President, Human Resources gave a brief overview of the global footprint of Century Aluminum

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Bart Darrell presented the minutes of the May 1, 2024, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting.

There was no motion to approve the minutes  
due to the lack of quorum.

Secretary Bart Darrell presented the minutes of the February 7, 2024, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting.

There was no motion to approve the minutes  
due to the lack of quorum.

Secretary Darrell also presented the Executive Committee minutes of April 9, 2024, and January 9, 2024, for consideration as well as a Special Called meeting on June 3, 2024.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Bart Darrell presented the financial report.

There was no motion to approve the financial report  
due to the lack of quorum.

V. GUEST SPEAKERS

Ms. Natalie Payne, Human Resource Manager, Century Aluminum, shared how Workforce Development services have been beneficial to Century Aluminum, especially through the many phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Kim Humphrey, Director of Employee and Community Programs, River View Coal, currently serves on the Kentucky Workforce and Innovation Board (KWIB) and is leading the Resource Alignment Committee. She shared this is an advisory Committee that will gather data and make recommendations to Governor Beshear on the most effective initiatives and ways to improve the return on our workforce investment dollars.

Mr. Bart Darrell, Chancellor of HealthForce Kentucky, gave an update of HealthForce Kentucky taking high tech education to students. Nine colleges and universities as well as high schools in 16 counties in Western Kentucky are involved in the project. HealthForce 2 is now on the road, as well, and an Innovation Center will be opening in Owensboro.

#### VI. EQUUS QUARTERLY DELIVERABLES

Chairperson Dunbar stated that EWS quarterly deliverables were met and are payable. Numerous informational events promoting KCC services were held during the quarter along with job preparation workshops. Enrollment of new participants continues and case quality for the quarter was 99.35% and several success stories are included in your packet.

#### VII. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

David Benson shared a video about a recent client's success story for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Paula Snyder shared highlights of a recent success story. Career Development Office and Office of Unemployment data were included in the meeting packet.

Matthew Bartlett shared a video of clients expressing how supportive services have made a difference in their lives. Supportive services are used primarily for gas and grocery cards but on occasion are used for auto repairs, utility bills, or other services to aid clients in reentering the workforce.

#### VIII. WORKFORCE HIGHLIGHTS:

Michelle Drake shared the following:

- Over \$790,000 of the \$20 million in youth funds secured through Kentucky legislature has been awarded to the Green River Area. These funds will be used to assist 230 youth (ages 16-24) in the Green River region who do not plan to go to college. A new staff member will be hired to work with the high schools in our seven-county region to connect with students, primarily seniors, by providing work-based learning or on-the-job training opportunities.
- Rapid Response meetings have been held with Hickory Springs employees following the announcement of their closure.
- Ms. Drake was notified that Daramic will be closing, and communication is ongoing to

schedule Rapid Response Activities for their 156 employees.

- Workforce staff are currently preparing to submit another DOL grant to assist employees with recent lay-offs and closures.
- Matthew Bartlett shared the Heatwave Hiring Event at the National Guard Armory in Owensboro yesterday hosted 42 employers and nearly 500 individuals seeking employment.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Dunbar recognized Workforce staff for the time and effort to obtain additional funds through grants to assist job seekers.

A survey will be sent to your email next week. Chairman Dunbar asked that you kindly complete the survey.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/pep



Chairperson